

Appl. No. 09/786,078
Auty. Docket No. 7262
Amdt. dated April 23, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 23, 2004
Customer No. 27752

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 13 and 16-20 are pending in the present application. No additional claims fee is believed to be due.

Claims 14, 15, and 21-24 have been withdrawn as a result of the restriction requirement.

It is believed these changes do not involve any introduction of new matter. Consequently, entry of these changes is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

Applicants neither confirms nor denies at this time the characterization regarding the single general inventive concept by the Office Action with respect to the designated Groups I-IV. Applicants respectfully select Group I, Claims 1-13 and 16-20. The remaining Groups II-IV (Claims 14, 21, 15, and 22-24) have been withdrawn. Applicants reserve the right to reinstate any withdrawn claims in the future (37 CFR §1.142(b)) or file divisional application(s) on non-selected Groups and their corresponding claims.

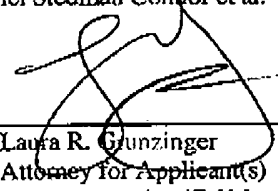
Conclusion

In light of the above remarks, it is requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. §§121 and 372. Early and favorable action in the case is respectfully requested.

Applicants have made an earnest effort to place their application in proper form and to distinguish the invention as now claimed from the applied references. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application, entry of the amendments presented herein, and allowance of Claims 1-13 and 16-20.

Respectfully submitted,
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